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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY; DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENERGY RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Letter dated 17 August 1992 from the representatives of Egypt, Italy and Norway to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of Egypt, Italy and Norway, we have the honour to present herewith a joint memorandum on a new global energy policy interrelationship.

We should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter, with the attached text, circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 79 (c) and (d) of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Dr. Nabil ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Egypt to the United Nations

(Signed) Mr. M. Mario SCIALOJA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
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(Signed) Mr. Lasse SEIM
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ANNEX

Joint memorandum concerning a new global energy policy interrelationship issued on 8 July 1992 at Cairo, Rome and Oslo

The Government of Norway, co-sponsored by the Governments of Italy and Egypt, hosted a Ministerial Workshop on Energy at Solstrand, Norway, on 2 and 3 July 1992. The objective of the meeting was to give political impulse to a new global energy policy interrelationship.

The Governments of Norway, Italy and Egypt agree that the Ministerial Workshop provided a unique opportunity for key countries to reflect at high political level on the broader political, economic and environmental significance of energy cooperation.

The Workshop focused on the crucial links between energy, environment and economic development. The outlook for oil and other energy sources was discussed. The interlinkage between security of supply, demand and investments was underscored. The importance of further developing technological partnerships between producers and consumers was emphasized.

Principles and potential for international cooperation with regard to regional energy challenges were also discussed. Participants recognized the broader political significance of the European Energy Charter and the importance of international energy cooperation also for the encouraging process of political and economic reform in the new independent States. The broader political significance of interregional cooperation around the Mediterranean basin was also underlined.

The Ministerial Workshop provided an early opportunity to focus on environmental concerns in the wake of the Earth Summit at Rio.

The Ministerial Workshop served as a forum for informal discussions and exchange of information and policy views. Its purpose was not to negotiate a new convention, nor to discuss multilateral fixing of prices and production levels, nor was a joint statement or press release envisaged.

Summing up the essence of the Workshop discussions, the Governments of Norway, Italy and Egypt would especially underline the consensus on the following:

(a) Energy goes to the very core of political, economic and environmental interests of countries;

(b) Energy can be a vehicle for cooperation that is needed between East and West, North and South in a world of increasing interdependencies;

(c) Energy policy and foreign policy considerations interplay;

(d) The discussions promoted common understanding of common interests among participants;

(e) The basis for national decision-making and for coordination of policies within existing forums has been improved;

(f) Contacts should continue as an important element in a broader ongoing cooperative process.

This is the essence of the call by Norway, Italy and Egypt for a new global energy policy interrelationship. Discussions at the Ministerial Workshop on Energy at Solstrand will be followed up by further confidence-building contacts at political and technical level, on a bilateral, regional and more global basis. Industry itself, international organizations and financial institutions have their role to play in addition to Governments.

The Governments of Norway, Italy and Egypt welcome the willingness expressed by Spain to host a new meeting at political level and will support their efforts as part of our general policy to promote a new global energy policy interrelationship and international cooperation.